



Rep. Ken Calvert welcomes Judge Virginia Phillips to Washington, D.C., for her nomination hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Congressman was the only Member of Congress to testify on Judge Phillips' behalf, and she was confirmed only two weeks later.

## VIRGINIA PHILLIPS

On November 10, 1999, Virginia Phillips was confirmed as the United States District Court Judge for the Central District of California. I had the honor of testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of Judge Phillips on October 26th. Judge Phillips received tremendous bipartisan support from the Inland Empire community, where she has served as a California State Judicial Officer and as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Central District Court in California.

The Central District of California is composed of over 18 million people, with more than three million people in the Eastern Division – the counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, California.

The Eastern Division is in critical need of a second district court judge and I asked the Committee to confirm Judge Phillips to fill this need. Our Eastern Division's one district judge is faced with such a staggering caseload that the

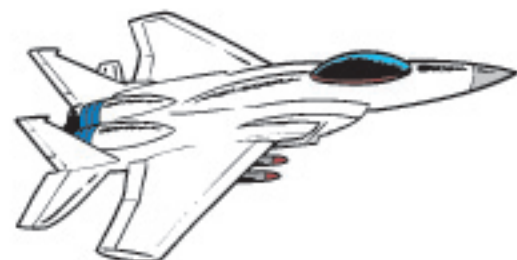
overflow of cases are sent to the Western Division each month. The result is a large number of litigants, witnesses, lawyers and law enforcement officers having to travel to Los Angeles on some of the most congested roads in the United States.

After a long delay, I am thrilled that the U.S. Senate recognized Judge Phillips' overwhelming qualifications to fill this federal court position before the end of the year. It was a pleasure to testify on her behalf and I welcome Judge Phillips to her new position as District Court Judge for the Central District of California.

## MILITARY

Over the past five years, Congress has added over \$44 billion to the President's total defense spending requests. This year I helped enact the following items which will strengthen our national defense and improve the quality of life for our service men and women.

- 4.8% across-the-board military personnel pay raise.
- \$836 million for National Missile Defense.
- \$3 billion for 15 C-17 airlift aircraft and authority for the Air Force to buy more than the 120 now authorized.
- \$100 million to upgrade military housing allowances.
- \$110 million for aviation continuance pay to alleviate Air Force and Navy pilot shortages.
- \$3.2 billion increase for defense research, development, test and evaluation programs.



Rep. Calvert is presented an award from Mayor Barbara Carmichael, City of Norco, for his work at obtaining \$2.2 million this year for the Norco Bluff Flood Control Project, the final installment on \$7.6 million.

## AIR QUALITY REVIEW STUDY

I am happy to report the inclusion of \$2 million in the FY2000 VA/HUD Appropriations Act (Public Law 106-74) for an Air Quality Review Study to be conducted by the National Research Council. This legislation directs the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council to study how the Clean Air Act can be better implemented. My request stemmed from a Regional Air Quality Summit I helped organize over a year ago (August 21, 1998). I believe we can have clean air and a healthy economy – in fact, these issues should go hand-in-hand. I believe that the study, which is expected to take two years, will finally enable us to reach both goals for Riverside County and the nation.

## PIERCE'S DISEASE

On November 12, 1999, I welcomed Under Secretary Mike Dunn of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to tour the vineyards of the Temecula Valley that have been ravaged by Pierce's Disease. Pierce's Disease, spread by the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter vector, kills the grape vine and presently has no known cure.

In our own Riverside County, the City of Temecula's wine industry has already suffered an estimated \$6 million in losses this year. Approximately 3,000 acres of wine grapes, planted since 1967, may be wiped-out if nothing is done to halt the spread of the disease.

To educate other California Members of Congress, I hosted Dr. Rick Redak from the University of California at Riverside in Washington on October 28, 1999. Early next year, I intend to chair a joint field hearing in California with the House Agriculture Committee and the Wine Caucus.

### Funding to Fight Pierce's Disease

#### Federal Funding:

FY99	\$100,000 research dollars to UCR
FY00	Language directing the Secretary of Agriculture to spend such sums as needed to fight Pierce's Disease
FY00	\$360,000 to be utilized in the City of Temecula

#### State and Local Funding:

- \$250,000 from City of Temecula & Riverside County for research and mitigation
- \$750,000 for three years by State of California for research and mitigation

## EDUCATION

**Education Flexibility Partnership Act (H.R. 800)** - I was happy to vote in favor of this bill which became law on April 29, 1999. This legislation gives states and local school districts the funding flexibility to get back to the basics and create innovative, accountable programs. Besides providing the funding flexibility to enhance the three T's – teachers, textbooks, and technology – Ed-Flex also allows governors and local school districts to utilize federal funding resources to address safety, crime, violence, and discipline concerns. Ed-Flex has been tested in 12 states and has achieved impressive results by improving student performance.

**Teacher Empowerment Act (H.R. 1995)** - This bill passed the House of Representatives on July 20, 1999, with my support and is now pending in the Senate. I look forward to the Senate taking action on this important piece of legislation next year. The TEA bill, as it is also known, allows federal funding to be used for hiring more teachers, teacher training programs, merit-based pay, more computers in the classroom, and other local initiatives to benefit student learning. Parents, teachers and local school boards working together can decide what is best for their community.

**School Safety Hotline Act (H.R. 1937)** - I was happy to cosponsor this bill that will allow grants received under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of 1994 to be used to establish and maintain school violence hotlines. If someone learns of a potential threat to a fellow student, a teacher, or a school facility, they will have an opportunity to provide anonymous information to law enforcement and school authorities. The School Safety Hotline Act will help states throughout the nation set up their own school safety hotlines. This will not be a cure, but it is another tool for students and teachers to help make our schools safer. The bill is currently pending in committee.

## 11B STUDY APPROVED

On Wednesday, November 10, 1999, the House Transportation Committee approved my request for a study, referred to as an "11b study," of the use of federal office space in the Riverside/San Bernardino area. The General Services Administration (GSA) has 90 days to complete the study and report its findings to the Office of Management and Budget and the House Transportation Committee. Under this timetable, we should be aware of their findings by the middle of February.

I believe the tremendous growth that the area has experienced since the last study of this type (1990) will be noted by the GSA and will result in a positive response from the agency. Pending a favorable recommendation, I will be working hard to allocate federal funds for a much needed federal office building.